

A TRIBUTE TO THE LIFE OF
JAMES O. PAGE

HON. CURT WELDON

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 29, 2004

Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Congressional Fire Services Caucus and the Congressional Fire Services Institute, I would like to take this opportunity to celebrate the life of James O. Page, a dear friend of mine who suddenly passed away on September 4, 2004. The founder of JEMS Communication, Chief Jim Page was highly regarded as the father of modern emergency medical services (EMS).

In 1957, Jim began his fire service career with the Los Angeles County Fire Department. He served in numerous locations and roles while working his way through the ranks and completing undergraduate and law degrees at night. In 1971, he was assigned by his department to coordinate the countywide implementation of paramedic rescue services. At the same time, he served as technical consultant and writer for the hit television series "Emergency." Jim later served as Chief of EMS for the State of North Carolina and Fire Chief for the City of Monterey Park, CA.

In 1979, Jim launched JEMS and turned it into one of the world's most respected sources of information for emergency services. In addition, he oversaw the launch of FireRescue Magazine, for which he wrote the highly regarded Burning Issues column. In 2001, he retired from JEMS Communication and was named Publisher Emeritus. A prolific writer, Jim published five books, wrote more than 400 magazine articles and editorials, and presented more than 800 public speeches.

In recent years, Jim has been traveling the country visiting the 100 "best small towns" in America to profile each town's fire department. To date, his journey had taken him to 30 departments. At the conclusion of his travels, I was hoping to have him testify on Capitol Hill. I looked forward to hearing him share his experience—lessons learned and lessons that could be applied to how the Federal Government could better address the needs of local first responders.

In 1987, I formed the Congressional Fire Services Caucus to bring a greater awareness of the fire and emergency services to Capitol Hill. Since day one, Chief Page was a believer in the Caucus and helped to form the Congressional Fire Services Institute. The success of both the Caucus and Institute was achieved through the wisdom and knowledge of those individuals beholden to the missions of these organizations. Jim was with us since day one and was always willing to offer his support to strengthen our missions.

Jim strived for a better fire and emergency services. A fitness advocate, he challenged the fire and emergency services to take better care of their own. He earned many accolades along the way, all of which were well deserved. In 1995, the International Association of Fire Chiefs created an annual award in his name, the James O. Page Award of Excellence. In 2000, Fire Chief Magazine recognized him as one of the 20 most influential fire chiefs of the 20th century. In 2002, JEMS Communication created the annual "James O. Page" EMS Award.

To his mother Marion, wife Jane and their four children, I would like to say thanks for allowing Jim the liberty and opportunity to share his talents and passion with the fire and emergency services. He has left an indelible mark on public safety. When those who knew Jim best describe him, they say that he was a brilliant leader, and then they invariably add that he was always a gentleman and a genuinely nice person. We will miss him, yet never forget the legacy he leaves behind to the fire and emergency services and to this great Nation.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. HAROLD ROGERS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 29, 2004

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, September 28, I had prior commitments and was not present for rollcall votes Nos. 473, 474 and 475. The votes were on a Pelosi motion to instruct conferees on H.R. 4200, a motion to close portions of the conference on H.R. 4200, and S. 2363. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay" on rollcall No. 473, and "yea" on rollcall Nos. 474 and 475.

CONGRESSIONAL BIRTHDAY TRIBUTE TO PHARMACIST CHARLES NIXON ON OCCASION OF HIS 70TH BIRTHDAY

HON. DONNA M. CHRISTENSEN

OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 29, 2004

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the contributions of a quiet, family man who served the community of my home island of St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands for over 30 years and who will celebrate his 70th birthday on October 2nd. Mr. Speaker, Charles Elvis Nixon came to St. Croix with his family in 1970 and has contributed to its health and well being as a pharmacist, small businessman and good friend and neighbor.

Mr. Speaker, from 1970 through 1985, Charles Nixon owned and managed a small chain of drugstores, namely the Center Pharmacy, Island Pharmacy and Corner Drugs, which were the main centers that met pharmaceutical as well as other needs for the people of St. Croix. His Corner Drug Store was right down the hall from my family practice. More than just professional neighbors, we became friends and he was a sounding board for my early political ideas. We raised our children together.

During that time, Mr. Nixon also co-owned the Caribbean Medical Supply Company with his late wife, Laura and the St. Croix Surgical Center, the island's first privately owned ambulatory surgical service.

Since 1985, he has served the people of St. Croix as a pharmacist at various locations including Gore Pharmacy in Gallows Bay, D&D Apothecary in Frederiksted and Drug World Pharmacy in Sion Farm. He also worked for the Virgin Islands Department of Health from 1993 to 2000 as the pharmacist for the Medical Assistance Program at the Frederiksted Health Center.

Mr. Speaker, one of the greatest tributes to Mr. Nixon, who is lovingly referred to as "Doc Nixon" by the many people who he served over the years, is the success of his four children who are all Ivy-League educated and successful as businessmen and women. Mark, his eldest son, is a marketing executive, Tracy, his oldest daughter is an entrepreneur, Jennifer is an obstetrician and gynecologist and Alison is a conference coordinator. Mark, Tracy and Alison are married with families of their own.

Mr. Nixon was born and raised in Smithfield, North Carolina in 1934. He earned his Bachelor Degree in Science and Pharmacy at Texas University. Drafted to serve his country in 1959, he served two years at Ft. Gordon in Augusta, Georgia.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Nixon had an old fashioned country pharmacist approach to helping people. When his children asked him what he liked most about being a pharmacist on St. Croix, he said he liked meeting and helping people and being a part of the health care team for the island. His children remember that after St. Croix was devastated by Hurricane Hugo in 1989, how Charles Nixon worked long hours to provide as many people as possible with their much needed medication and in some instances, he personally delivered the medication to their homes after work.

His children remember that after their mother's death, the local newspaper mentioned the urgent need for a substitute pharmacist since its only pharmacist, their dad, was out on bereavement leave. This "mention" illustrated for them just how many lives a pharmacist touches and how many people depend on them always being there.

Mr. Speaker, on the eve of his 70th birthday, Mr. Nixon continues his work as a pharmacist on St. Croix at the Kmart Pharmacy in Frederiksted. I never go there without stopping to visit with him and catch up on old times and the latest accomplishments of his children. He has re-married to the former Lucille Jacobs and spends his free time playing golf, traveling and visiting with his three granddaughters. I am proud and honored to be able to call Charles Nixon my friend.

Charles Nixon's friendliness, willingness to listen and help, his professionalism, his dedication to his work, his integrity and success as a father and husband, his success as an entrepreneur, his adoption of St. Croix as home and his belief in the power of God's love makes him eminently worthy of this recognition on behalf of the people of St. Croix, the entire Virgin Islands and our Nation.

IN HONOR OF ARMY RESERVE PRIVATE FIRST CLASS NATHAN STAHL

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 29, 2004

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride and respect that I wish to commend Army Reserve Private First Class Nathan Stahl for his bravery in the field of battle and his willingness to fight for his country. In January 2004 Private Stahl was assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment from